Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 EPA-01 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INT-05 CEQ-01 L-03 ACDA-12 /079 W

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P 231756Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9492 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DEPT PASS EPA FOR SHOSTAL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, PBOR, JA, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: SIMULTANEOUS WARNING OF TSUAMIS (02.09-21): JAPANESE OBJECTION TO US-USSR ACTIVITY IN VICINITY OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES

REF: TOKYO 4559

- 1. WE FULLY SUPPORT EMBASSY TOKYO'S POSITION (REF A) THAT THE U.S. SHOULD ENSURE THAT ALL US-USSR ACTIVITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE SIMULTANEOUS WARNING OF TSUAMIS PROJECT IS KEPT WELL BEYOND THE 12 MILE LIMIT OF THE DISPUTED NORTHERN TERRITORIES.
- 2. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION ON JAPANESE STATEMENTS (REF A) THAT JOINT PROJECT AREA IS AT ONE OINT WITHIN 3-5 KILOMETERS OF SHIKOTAN ISLAND. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEPARTMENT HAD CONSULTED LAST YEAR WITH BERT THOMPSON OF NOAA, U.S. LEADER OF THE TSUNAMIS PROJECT, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCE THAT PROJECT WILL BE CONDUCTED WELL BEYOND THE 12 MILE LIMIT.

3. IN VIEW OF RENEWED STRONG JAPANESE CONCERN ABOUT THIS PROJECT, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGREE-MENT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SHOSTAL AGAIN CONTACT NOAA TO ENSURE THAT NO JOINT US-SOVIET ACTIVITY WILL OCCUR ANYWHERE

IN THE AREA OF THE DISPUTED TERRITORIES. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD DEFER TO EMBASSY TOKYO ON THIS, WE BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE ALSO TO AVOID CONDUCTING JOINT ACTIVITIES IN ANY WAY THAT MAY BE MISUNDERSTOOD IN JAPAN AS IMPLYING U.S. RECOGNITION OF THE SOVIET CLAIM TO THE NORTHER TERRITORIES.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE OPEN OCEANS PHASE OF THE EXPERIMENT, WHICH WILL INVOLVE PARTICIPATION BY U.S. SCIENTISTS ON THE CRUISE OF A SOVIET RESEARCH VESSEL, WILL TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST-OCTOBER 1978, AND WE RECOMMEND THAT THE U.S. REQUEST FROM THE SOVIETS, THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT CHANNELS, A CRUISE PLAN OF THE SOVIET RESEARCH VESSEL BEFORE ANY U.S. SCIENTISTS GO ONBOARD. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT U.S. SCIENTISTS PARTICIPATING ON THE CRUISE OF THE SOVIET RESEARCH VESSEL BE FULLY BRIEFED ON THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE. TOON

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